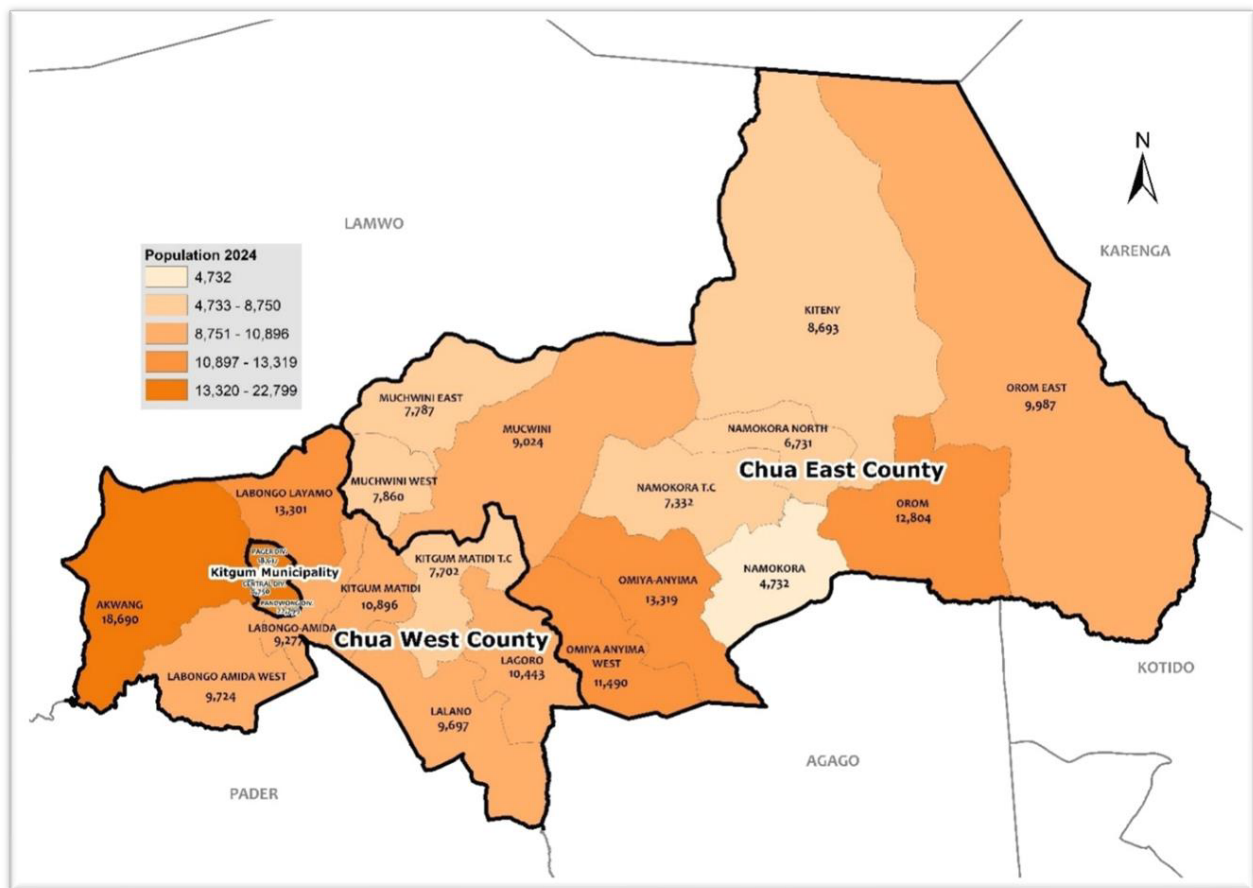


KITGUM DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

POPULATION SITUATION ANALYSIS REPORT



SEPTEMBER 2026

FOREWORD

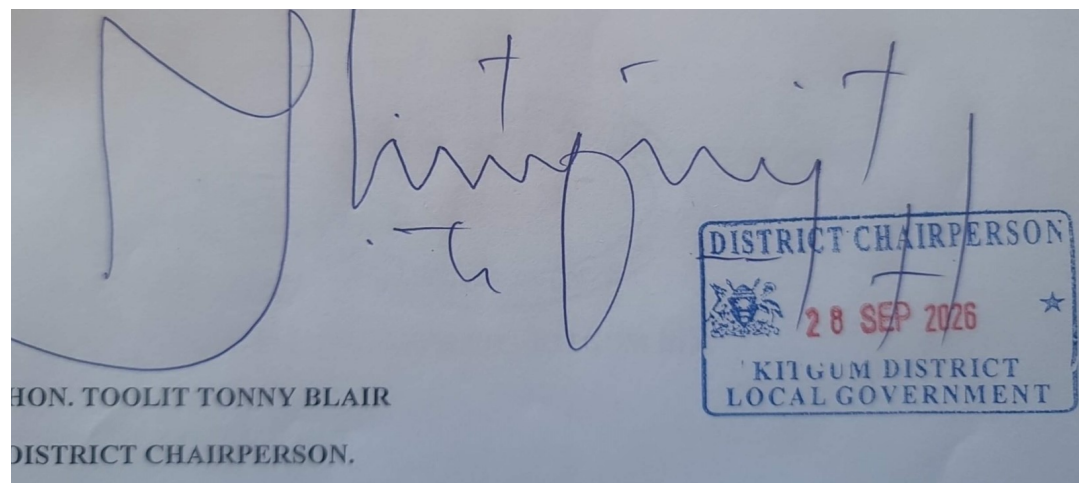
The National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) is the main source of demographic, environmental, and socio-economic data and statistical information used for planning, policy formulation, and evidence-based decision-making. Uganda has conducted 6 Population and Housing Censuses since independence, at approximately 10-year intervals, with the latest census being in May 2024. The NPHC 2024 was undertaken under the theme ‘It matters to be counted’.

The National Population and Housing Census 2024 Final Report – Volume 1 was published on 31ST December 2024. The report provided insights into the country’s population size, population distribution by age group disaggregated by sex, and population up to the district/city level. Other information included the characteristics of the population, the dwellings they live in, and the household-based Agricultural activities.

This Population Situation Analysis report for Kitgum District is an extract of the main National Population and Housing Census (NPHC 2024) report and it presents Kitgum District specific final results of the population, household characteristics and housing conditions at Parish/Ward level for the 22 Lower Local Governments in Kitgum. The concepts and definitions used in the Final National Population and Housing Census 2024 Report – Volume 1 remain the same in this report.

The District is grateful to Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and National Planning Authority (NPA) for their continued technical supports to the Planning department and the District at large in producing Statistical reports that are useful to guide planning and decision making in the District

I appeal to all decision makers, researchers and academicians to make extensive use of this statistical information for planning, policy analysis, and evidence- based decision-making and public debate



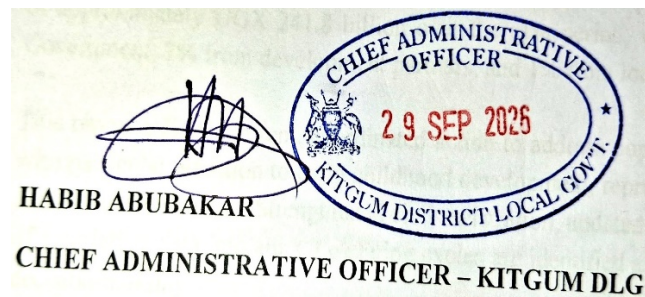
HON. TOOLIT TONNY BLAIR
DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON.

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON
28 SEP 2026
KITGUM DISTRICT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PREFACE

Kitgum District gratefully acknowledges the efforts of National Planning Authority for their valued contribution to the production and review of this Population Situation Analysis report. Special thanks also go to Uganda Bureau of Statistics for their effort in capacity building and continued technical support to district staff to see to it that Kitgum district gets specific data and statistics required for designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development programmes. There are many documents that have been received in the district from UBOS, such as National Population and Housing Census Report for 2024, the National Service Delivery Surveys and the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) Reports, to mention but a few.

I also wish to pass my heart felt gratitude to the Planning department of Kitgum District Local Government for the compilation of this report.



HABIB ABUBAKAR
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – KITGUM DLG

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink over a circular official stamp. The stamp is blue and contains the text 'CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER' at the top, 'KITGUM DISTRICT LOCAL GOV'T.' at the bottom, and a central date stamp '29 SEP 2025' in red. A small crest is visible on the left side of the stamp.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Population Situation Analysis Report provides a comprehensive assessment of population dynamics, human capital development trends, and service delivery challenges in Kitgum District, as embedded within the Fourth District Development Plan (DDP IV) covering the period FY2025/26 to FY2029/30. The report draws on programme frameworks, strategic interventions, and results indicators documented in the DDP IV to examine how population factors intersect with development priorities across sectors including health, education, social protection, water and sanitation, labour, and governance.

Kitgum District, located in Northern Uganda, is a post-conflict area whose population characteristics continue to be shaped by years of displacement, under-investment, and institutional fragility. The DDP IV signals a strategic shift toward sustainable, human-centred development, aligning local priorities with Uganda's NDP IV and Vision 2040. Population considerations are central to this transformation, as demographic pressures place enormous demand on public services, natural resources, infrastructure, and economic systems.

Key findings from this analysis reveal that the district faces compounding challenges: a youthful and rapidly growing population, high dependency ratios, significant maternal and child health burdens, low educational attainment, limited access to WASH services, persistent unemployment among youth, and structural vulnerabilities among women, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities. These challenges are further amplified by climate change impacts and fiscal constraints resulting partly from the loss of revenue-generating peri-urban areas to a newly established city.

The DDP IV responds to these realities through targeted strategic interventions spanning all five NDP IV strategic objectives. Priority areas include strengthening human capital foundations, expanding social protection, deepening agricultural productivity and value chains, improving infrastructure, and modernising governance frameworks. The plan projects a total financing envelope of approximately UGX 241.8 billion over the plan period, with 92% contributed by the Central Government, 7% from development partners, and 1% from locally raised revenues.

This report calls for urgent, coordinated action to address population-driven service delivery gaps, with particular attention to early childhood development, reproductive health, youth employability, and inclusive planning. Strengthened civil registration, updated population databases, and integration of population data into annual planning cycles are identified as critical enablers for evidence-based decision-making.

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SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The table below consolidates the principal findings from each thematic area analysed in this report. Data are drawn from the Uganda National Population and Housing Census 2024 and the Kitgum District Development Plan IV (DDP IV, FY2025/26–FY2029/30). Critical gaps and risks identified in this summary are elaborated in the respective sections of this report.

Thematic Area	Key Data Points	Critical Gaps / Risks
Population & Demographics	Total population of 239,655 (2024); 52.4% female; population grew from 204,048 in 2014 at a rate of 1.6% p.a. 50% of population is under 18 years; 57% are of working age (14–64). Average household size is 4.8. Urban population has grown to 44.5%.	High dependency ratio; escalating demand for education, health, and employment services.
Maternal & Child Health	Total Fertility Rate of 5.5, above the national average of 4.5. Life expectancy estimated at 70.9 years. Health worker staffing at only 38%. Four LLGs have no health facility. MMR in Northern Region is 343 per 100,000 live births. Immunisation coverage at 54% nationally.	High maternal mortality; unmet family planning need; under-equipped health facilities; inadequate skilled birth attendance in the region (58%).
Mental Health	21,290 persons with probable general psychological distress; 14,077 with probable depression; 6,657 with probable bipolar disorder; 6,417 with probable anxiety; 2,749 with probable psychosis; 1,255 with probable suicidality.	Severe post-conflict mental health burden. Concentrated in Kitgum Municipality, Akwang, Omiya-Anyima, and Labongo Layamo sub counties.
Early Childhood Education	14,876 of 21,022 children aged 3–5 (70.8%) are not attending ECCE. Highest gaps: Akwang (1,239), Orom (1,128), Kitgum Municipality (1,126) , Omiya-Anyima (1,012).	Widespread absence from early learning undermines foundational development and school readiness.
Primary & Secondary Education	3,625 of 6,642 children aged 6 (54.6%) have not started primary school. 14,657 of 45,844 children aged 6–12 (32%) are out of school. 11,253 of 32,345 adolescents aged 13–17 (34.8%) are out of school.	High dropout and non-enrolment rates across all levels; worst in Orom, Orom East, Omiya-Anyima, Akwang, and Kitgum Matidi.
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	92.9% of households access improved water. Only 37.6% have improved sanitation. 9,105 households (18.3%) practise open defecation. 74 villages still lack any safe water source.	Acute sanitation gap — especially in Orom East (70.2% OD), Orom (43.8%), and Kiteny (41.7%). Significant urban-rural disparity.

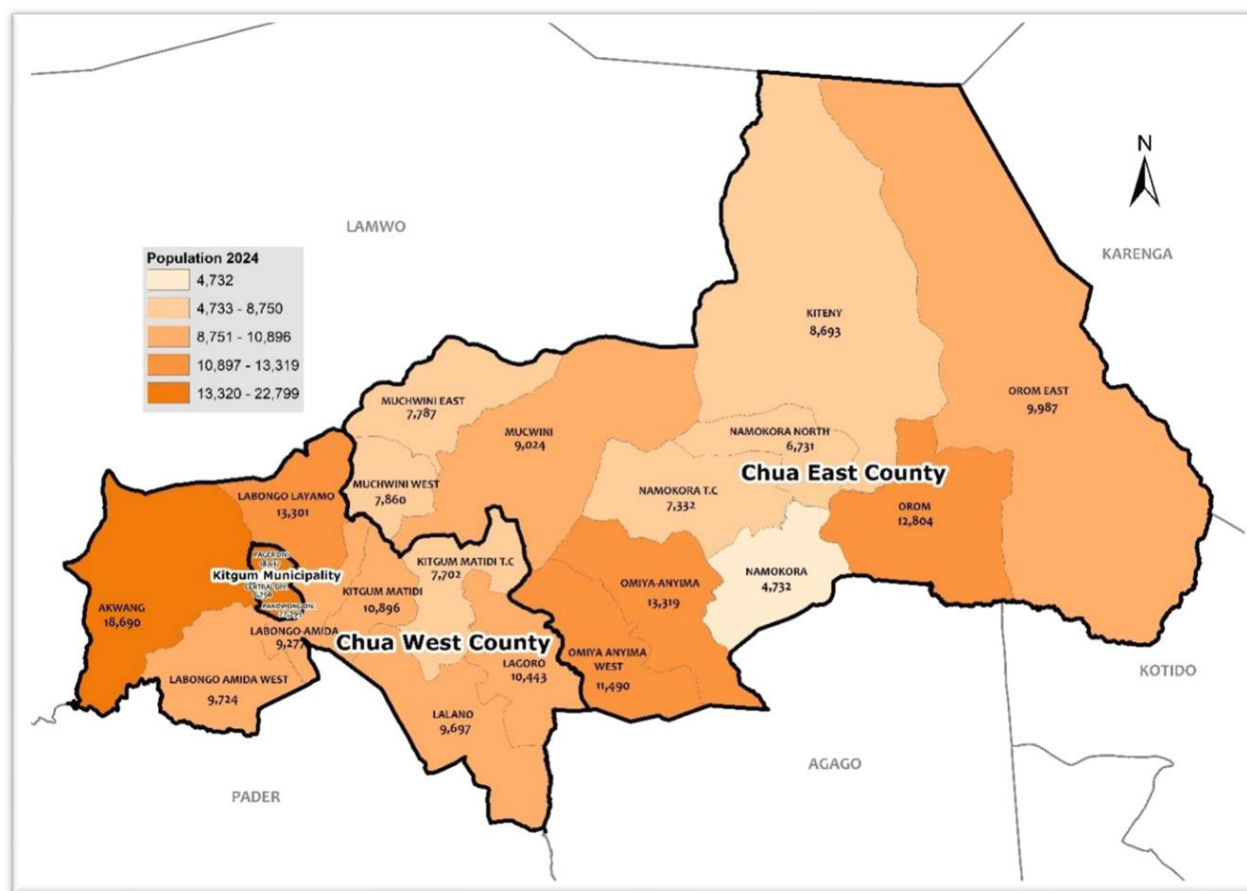
Employment & NEET	Overall unemployment rate: 15.2% (aged 14–64). 37,123 youth aged 18–30 (64.6%) are NEET. 28,366 youth aged 15–24 (51.5%) are NEET. Highest NEET rates: Kiteny (88.9%), Namokora North (83.4%), Lalano (81.7%).	Massive youth disengagement; structural skills mismatch; limited formal employment pathways in rural subcounties.
Agricultural Livelihoods	54.8% of all households operate in the subsistence economy (27,300 households). Highest in Chua East (69.1%) and Chua West (63.4%) counties. Only 6,113 households (12.3%) benefited from PDM.	Overdependence on subsistence farming; limited commercialisation of agriculture; low PDM reach relative to need.
Energy Access	Only 11,977 households (24.0%) have solar or grid electricity. Grid electricity is limited to 4,229 households (8.5%), heavily concentrated in Kitgum Municipality (3,987 of 4,229). Rural subcounties are severely underserved: Orom East (24 HH), Kiteny (83 HH).	Severe energy poverty limiting health facility operation, education, and economic productivity in rural areas.
Vulnerable Groups	Women face GBV, early marriage, and limited economic access. Adolescent pregnancy rate: 23.5% nationally (21.7% in Northern Region). PWDs lack specialised services. Older persons (5.4%) face income insecurity. Refugee populations add pressure to services.	Multiple overlapping vulnerabilities among women, youth, PWDs, elderly, and refugees require targeted, integrated responses.
Multidimensional Poverty	MPI of 0.314 — slightly below the Acholi Sub-Region average of 0.323. Better than Agago (0.331) and Pader (0.325), but poverty remains widespread across all dimensions: education, health, and living standards.	Moderate poverty relative to neighbours, but with deep structural constraints — conflict legacy, limited infrastructure, fiscal weakness.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Geographical Location, Land Area, and Population

Kitgum District is located in Northern Uganda within the Acholi Sub-region, covering a total land area of 3,956.5 square kilometres. It lies between Longitude 32°E and 34°E and Latitude 2°N and 4°N, bordered by the Republic of South Sudan to the northeast, Karenga, Kotido, Agago, Pader, and Lamwo Districts. Kitgum is approximately 425 km from Kampala. The district comprises 3 Constituencies, 22 Lower Local Governments (3 Divisions, 2 Town Councils and 17 Sub-Counties), 83 Parishes/Wards, and 687 Villages/Cells. The district is overwhelmingly inhabited by the Acholi ethnic group (95–98%), with minority representation from Sudanese Refugees, Langi, Madi, Kakwa, Alur, and other migrant communities.

Map of Kitgum district showing total population by subcounty



Source: NPHC, 2024

The district is situated in the Acholi sub-region of Northern Uganda and lies approximately 450 km north of the capital, Kampala. The district borders Lamwo District to the north, Pader District to the west, Agago District to the South East, Kotido and Karenga Districts to the East and South Sudan to the north and northeast. Its administrative and commercial centre is located in Kitgum Municipality. Historically, Kitgum formed part of the larger Acholi administrative area and has since undergone several administrative changes following the creation of new districts from its territory. The district

is predominantly inhabited by the Acholi people, whose main livelihoods include subsistence agriculture, livestock keeping, and small-scale trade. The area experiences a tropical climate characterized by distinct rainy and dry seasons which supports the cultivation of crops such as millet, sorghum, maize, beans and groundnuts.

Development has been greatly affected by the long insurgency of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) which lasted for more than two decades from the late 1980s to the mid-2000s. The conflict led to widespread displacement of communities, destruction of infrastructure, disruption of social services and long-term social and psychological impacts on the population with many residents living in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps during the peak of the conflict. Since the end of the insurgency, the district has been undergoing gradual recovery and reconstruction. Efforts have focused on rebuilding infrastructure, restoring essential services, and revitalizing local economic activities. Despite the progress made, several development indicators in Kitgum District remain below national averages, highlighting the continued need for targeted development interventions.

1.2 Purpose of the Report

This Population Situation Analysis (PSA) Report aims to compile and analyze population-related data and indicators to better understand development trends in the district. The PSA for Kitgum District provides evidence on population dynamics and how they affect development planning and service delivery. The district is still recovering from the long insurgency of the Lord's Resistance Army, which disrupted infrastructure, livelihoods, and social services. At the same time, Kitgum has a rapidly growing and largely youthful population, increasing the demand for education, health care, employment and other essential services. The analysis therefore helps identify key population trends, development gaps and priority areas for action while supporting evidence-based planning and policies to improve the well-being of the population and harness the district's potential demographic dividend.

1.3 Objectives

- Analyse the population composition of the district
- Analyse population trends across key sectors including health, education, WASH, employment, and social protection;
- Identify population-related vulnerabilities and service delivery gaps;
- Assess the district's institutional and financing capacity to respond to population challenges; and
- Provide a foundation for evidence-based advocacy and planning.

1.4 Methodology

The report is mainly based on a systematic review and analysis of secondary data sources used to inform the contextual analysis. These include Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) data, Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), national sector statistics and relevant literature on population dynamics in Northern Uganda. Where specific numerical baseline data are not available in the

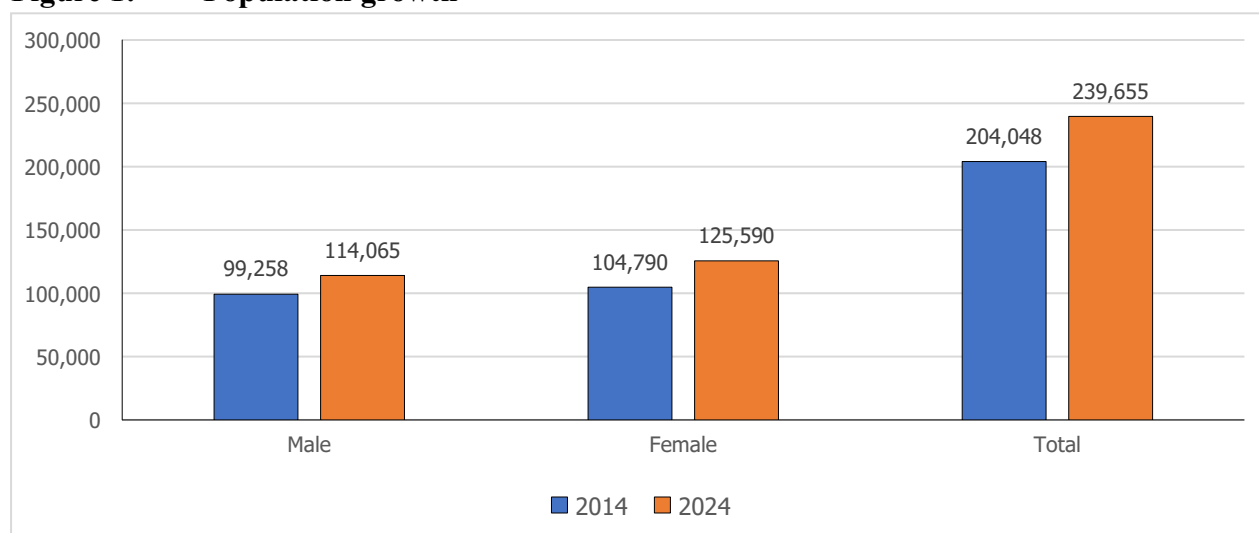
District Development Plan IV (DDP IV), projections and qualitative assessments are derived from statistical estimates from UBOS and other official sources.

2.0 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

2.1 Population Size and Growth

Kitgum District has experienced substantial population change over recent decades, influenced by the interplay of high natural population growth, past conflict-induced displacement and post-conflict returns. The population increased from 204,048 in 2014 to 239,655 in 2024 (114,065 males and 125,590 females) and is projected to reach 247,385 in 2026. The results on the sex composition of the population show that there were more females (125,590 than males 114,065) in 2024. There has been a decline in the average annual population growth rate from 1.7 percent between 2002 and 2014 to 1.6 percent between 2014 and 2024. The district had 49,817 households and average household size of 4.8. The sex ratio shows more males in early childhood but shifts in later ages as females tend to live longer, highlighting the need for gender-responsive planning and elderly care services.

Figure 1: Population growth



Source: NPHC, 2024

As per NPHC 2024 Kitgum District had an urban population totaling to 106,616 (44.5%) compared to 30% in 2014. The urban area in this context comprises of only Kitgum Municipality and the 2 Town Councils of Kitgum-Matidi and Namokora. This implies that the majority (55.5%) of Kitgum District's Population, 133,039 live in rural areas.

Table 1: Total population by sex, place of residence and household

Area	Population Size			Households	
	Male	Female	Total population	Households	Average Size
Urban	30,050	35,150	65,200	14,427	4.5
Rural	84,015	90,440	174,455	35,390	4.9
Total	114,065	125,590	239,655	49,817	4.8

Source: NPH, 2024

2.2 Age Structure

The age structure of Kitgum District reveals a predominantly youthful population with half (50%) aged 0–17 years and 16% under five reflecting high fertility and a substantial dependency ratio. School-age children are a major segment, with 19% in primary (6–12 years) and 16% in secondary (13–18 years), underscoring the urgent need for expanded education services. The working-age group (14–64 years) makes up 57%, though prime working-age adults (18–59 years) account for 44.5%, suggesting economic potential but also caregiving responsibilities due to the large youth and small elderly populations. Women of reproductive age (15–49 years) form 24%, highlighting the importance of maternal health and family planning. Meanwhile, youth (15–24 years) at 23% and young adults (18–30 years) at 24% present both opportunities for growth and risks of unemployment if jobs are scarce. The older population remains small with 10% aged more than 60 years.

Table 2: Population by Special Age Group

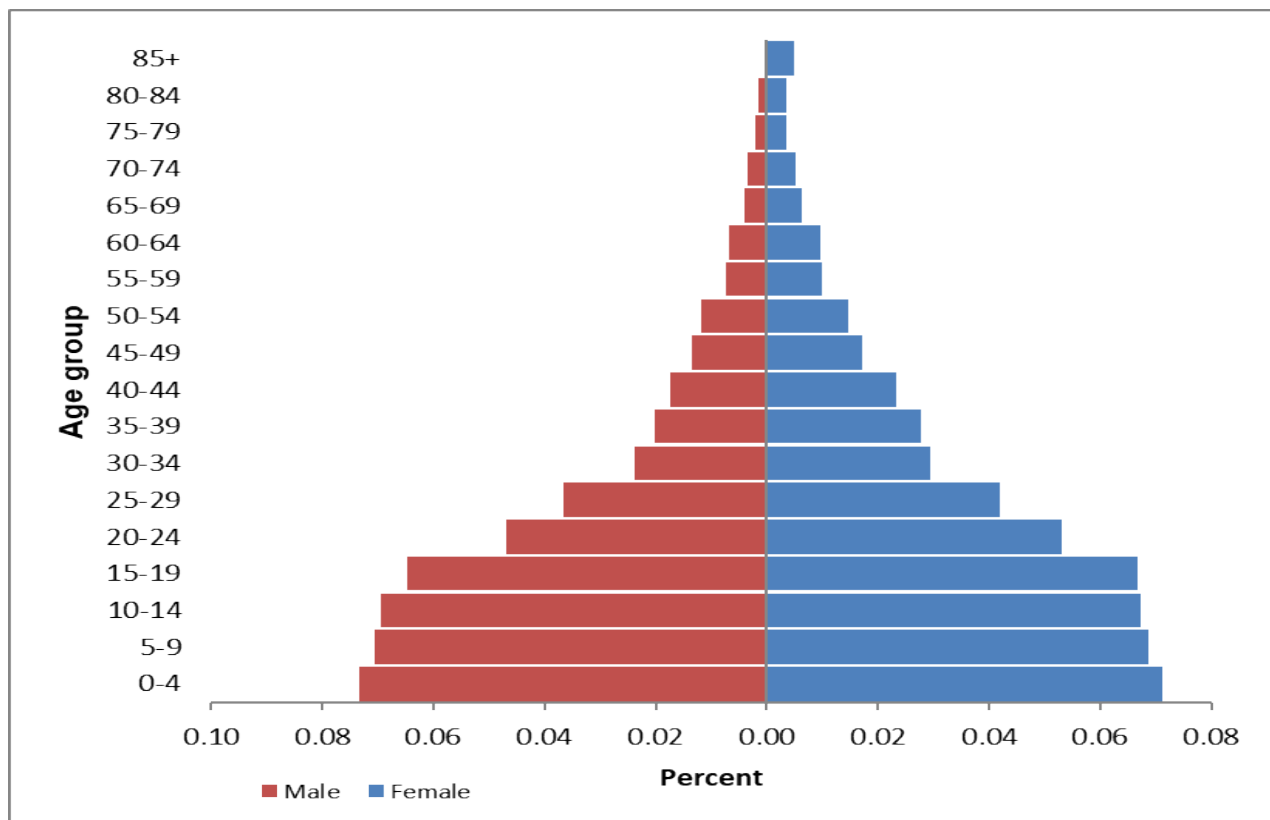
Age group	Population	(%)	Special Age group Name
Age 0 – 4	34,605	14%	Early Childhood (0–4 years)
Under 5	38,146	16%	Under-five Population
Age 0 – 17	120,448	50%	Children & Adolescents (0–17 years)
Age 6 – 12	45,981	19%	Primary School Age (6–12 years)
Age 13 – 18	38,677	16%	Lower & Upper Secondary Age
Age 14 – 64	136,384	57%	Working-age Population (14–64 years)
Age 15+	138,947	58%	Adult Population (15 years and over)
Age 15 – 49 (Women)	57,218	24%	Women of Reproductive Age (15–49 years)
Age 18 – 30	57,847	24%	Young Adults (18–30 years)
Age 15 – 24	55,428	23%	Youth (15–24 years)
Age 18+	119,207	50%	Voting-age Population (18 years and over)
Age 18 – 59	106,228	44%	Prime Working-age Adults (18–59 years)
Age 60+	12,979	5%	Older Persons (60 years and over)
Age 65+	9,052	4%	Elderly (65 years and over)
Age 80+	3,225	1%	Oldest-old (80 years and over)

Source: NPHC, 2024

The population pyramid depicts a broad-based structure, characteristic of high-fertility, low mortality and high growth rate. The pyramid is dominated by the youngest age cohorts (particularly the 0–4

and 5–9 brackets) confirming that children constitute the largest segment of the district's population. The structure narrows progressively with age and contracts sharply beyond 60 years, reflecting low life expectancy and low survival rates into old age. A visible bulge in the 15–30 age range signals a growing working-age population entering the labor market in increasing numbers each year.

Figure 1: Population Pyramid showing the age structure of Kitgum district



Source: NPHC, 2024

2.3 Population Distribution

The population of Kitgum District is spread across the 22 sub-counties with varying population densities reflecting historical settlement patterns, road accessibility and land availability. Kitgum Municipality stands out as the most densely populated area with 50,166 residents highlighting its role as the district's urban hub. Akwang Sub County follows with 18,690 people making it the largest rural sub-county. Other sub counties with significant populations include Omiya-Anyima (13,319), Labongo Layamo (13,301) and Orom (12,804). Sub-counties of Namokora (4,732) and Namokora North (6,731) have relatively smaller populations suggesting more sparsely populated rural communities. Across nearly all sub-counties, females slightly outnumber males consistent with broader demographic trends in Uganda.

Table 3: Population Distribution

Sub County	Male	Female	Total
Kiteny	4,176	4,517	8,693
Muchwini East	3,788	3,999	7,787
Muchwini West	3,787	4,073	7,860
Mucwini	4,329	4,695	9,024
Namokora	2,298	2,434	4,732
Namokora North	3,242	3,489	6,731
Namokora Town Council	3,398	3,934	7,332
Omiya Anyima West	5,604	5,886	11,490
Omiya-Anyima	6,381	6,938	13,319
Orom	6,126	6,678	12,804
Orom East	4,737	5,250	9,987
Akwang	8,935	9,755	18,690
Kitgum Matidi	5,336	5,560	10,896
Kitgum Matidi Town Council	3,735	3,967	7,702
Labongo Amida West	4,730	4,994	9,724
Labongo Layamo	6,518	6,783	13,301
Labongo-Amida	4,463	4,814	9,277
Lagoro	5,000	5,443	10,443
Lalano	4,565	5,132	9,697
Kitgum Municipality	22,917	27,249	50,166
Kitgum District	114,065	125,590	239,655

Source: NPHC, 2024

Household size

Table 4: Household Population and Average Household Size

Sub County	Population	Households	Average Household Size
Kiteny	8,693	1,767	4.9
Muchwini East	7,787	1,539	5.0
Muchwini West	7,860	1,611	4.9
Mucwini	9,024	1,798	5.0
Namokora	4,732	902	5.2
Namokora North	6,731	1,370	4.9
Namokora Town Council	7,332	1,500	4.9
Omiya Anyima West	11,490	2,387	4.8
Omiya-Anyima	13,319	2,662	5.0
Orom	12,804	2,471	5.1
Orom East	9,987	2,174	4.6
Akwang	18,690	3,731	5.0
Kitgum Matidi	10,896	2,191	5.0

Kitgum Matidi Town Council	7,702	1,525	5.0
Labongo Amida West	9,724	2,122	4.6
Labongo Layamo	13,301	2,669	5.0
Labongo-Amida	9,277	2,030	4.6
Lagoro	10,443	2,103	4.9
Lalano	9,697	1,863	5.2
Kitgum Municipality	50,166	11,402	4.3
Kitgum District	239,655	49,817	4.8

Source: NPHC, 2024

Kitgum District has an average household size of 4.8 persons per household though this varies slightly across sub-counties. Most sub-counties record household sizes close to five persons per household indicating relatively large family units typical of rural settings. The largest average household sizes are observed in Namokora and Lalano (5.2 persons), followed by Orom (5.1) and several sub-counties such as Muchwini East, Mucwini, Omiya-Anyima, Akwang, Kitgum Matidi, Kitgum Matidi Town Council and Labongo Layamo, each averaging about 5.0 persons per household. The smallest household sizes are recorded in Orom East, Labongo Amida West, and Labongo-Amida (4.6) and Kitgum Municipality (4.3) reflecting relatively smaller household structures commonly found in urban areas. Overall, data shows that household sizes remain relatively large across the district.

2.4 Population Movement and Migration

Migration in Kitgum District occurs in several forms, including in-migration, urban migration, seasonal migration and out-migration. Many pastoralists have moved into Northern Uganda, including Kitgum in search of pasture. At the same time, people from rural areas are moving to urban centres in search of economic opportunities, while seasonal labour migration to urban centres such as Gulu City and Lira City as well as to South Sudan, is common. Out-migration is also significant, with many young people moving to Kampala or neighbouring countries for employment and education.

These migration patterns are largely driven by poor infrastructure, limited livelihood opportunities, unemployment, and inadequate services in rural areas. The impacts of migration include increasing pressure on housing, sanitation, and social services in urban centres like Kitgum Municipality, reduced agricultural labour in some rural areas, loss of skilled youth through brain drain and social concerns such as land disputes and cultural changes within the Acholi community.

3.0 HEALTH AND POPULATION DYNAMICS

3.1 Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and child health remains a critical aspect of the population situation in Kitgum District and is strongly emphasized in the DDP IV under the Human Capital Development Programme. The available indicators suggest progress in some areas, but also highlight ongoing pressures on the health system, where the readiness and capacity of health facilities play a key role in ensuring safe pregnancies and childbirth. Life expectancy in Kitgum is estimated at 70.9 years, higher than the national average of 68.2 years, indicating improved survival outcomes, particularly among women who constitute a larger share of the older population. However, the Total Fertility Rate (5.5) remains higher than the national average of 4.5, largely driven by limited access to family planning services and persistent cultural preferences for larger families.

3.2 Health Infrastructure and Service Coverage

Kitgum District has a network of both public and private health facilities that provide essential health services to the population. Currently, the district has three General Hospitals (one government-owned and two privately operated), one Health Centre IV, ten Health Centre IIIs (nine government and one private), and twenty-six Health Centre IIs (sixteen government and ten private).

However, gaps in service coverage remain. Four Lower Local Governments (LLGs) of Mucwini East, Namokora North, Omiya Anyima West, and Namokora do not have any health facility. To align with the national policy that requires every LLG to have at least a Health Centre III, it is necessary to establish a minimum of one HC III in each of these areas to improve access to essential health services. In addition, six LLGs currently rely only on Health Centre IIs as their primary point of care. These facilities require upgrading to Health Centre IIIs in order to meet the policy standard and enhance the scope and quality of health services available to communities. Human resources for health remain a significant challenge in the district, with the overall staffing level standing at 38 percent. Furthermore, the condition of many health facilities is inadequate, particularly in terms of infrastructure development and functionality.

Key Health Service Delivery Standards and Indicators

Malaria continues to be the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Kitgum District, highlighting the need for strengthened preventive and curative interventions within the health system.

Table 5: Key health service delivery indicators

Key Indicators	National	Northern Region	Kitgum
Long walking distance to the nearest health facility	5 Km	12 Km	
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)	228:100,000 live birth	343:100,000 live birth	
Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR)	52:1,000 live birth	74.8:1,000 live birth	

Immunization Coverage	54%		
% of girls aged 15–19 who are pregnant or mothers	23.5%	21.7%	
Stunting rates in children	26%	27.7%	
Under-5 stunting prevalence (%)			
Wasting rates in children	3.2%	5.8%	
Underweight rates in children	9.7%	13.7%	
Access to skilled birth attendants	91%	58%	
Malaria Prevalence	13%	22.4%	

3.3 Child Nutrition and Early Childhood Development

Nutritional status is a key determinant of long-term human capital outcomes, and the district addresses nutrition comprehensively across its Human Capital Development programme. Indicators tracked include the percentage of OPD attendance for under-5 children assessed for nutritional status, Vitamin A second dose coverage for under-5s, and the percentage of pregnant women receiving iron and folic acid supplementation.

3.4 Mental Health disorders

Mental health data from the census reveals alarming levels of psychological distress across Kitgum District. The mental health profile for the district indicates a substantial burden of psychological and psychiatric conditions across the population. Overall, the district recorded 21,290 cases of probable general psychological distress, alongside 6,657 cases of probable bipolar affective disorder, 14,077 cases of probable depression, 6,417 cases of probable anxiety, 2,749 cases of probable psychosis and 1,255 cases of probable suicidality. The distribution of mental health disorder varies across sub-counties with high numbers reported in Kitgum Municipality, Akwang, Omiya-Anyima, and Labongo Layamo.

Table 6: Mental Health disorders in persons aged 10 and above by Geographical Location

District/MC/Sub county	Probable General Psychological distress	Probable Bipolar affective disorder	Probable depression	Probable Anxiety	Probable Psychosis	Probable Suicidality
Kiteny	702	179	427	183	66	35
Muchwini East	831	395	360	283	126	54
Muchwini West	716	437	366	193	37	10
Mucwini	715	164	395	279	109	21
Namokora	114	20	72	42	16	10
Namokora North	446	37	378	78	12	7
Namokora Town Council	646	288	304	151	58	25
Omiya Anyima West	512	168	253	171	63	26

Omiya-Anyima	1,325	435	953	921	620	366
Orom	770	103	531	318	157	63
Orom East	292	57	160	112	45	13
Akwang	2,657	899	2,051	423	140	57
Kitgum Matidi	817	298	482	189	60	39
Kitgum Matidi Town Council	247	80	131	83	18	9
Labongo Amida West	840	227	615	236	48	17
Labongo Layamo	1,891	376	1,451	317	138	50
Labongo-Amida	1,180	212	934	269	170	51
Lagoro	847	162	593	409	114	36
Lalano	916	339	556	250	87	44
Kitgum Municipality	4,826	1,781	3,065	1,510	665	322
Kitgum	21,290	6,657	14,077	6,417	2,749	1,255

Source: NPHC, 2024

4.0 EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Early Childhood Care and Education

The district recognises early childhood development as the foundation of human capital accumulation. Under Programme Objective 1 of the Human Capital Development programme, the plan targets increased enrolment in ECCE and improved access to integrated ECD services covering nutrition, health, early stimulation, and child protection. Key output indicators include the number of pupils enrolled in ECCE, the number of ECCE centres registered and licensed, and the percentage of ECCE centres monitored and support-supervised each term.

Improving compliance with parenting standards is identified as an intermediate outcome, with interventions targeting the training of Community Development Officers and caregivers on effective parenting, reducing physical punishment, and strengthening violence prevention and response mechanisms for children aged 0–8 years. These interventions directly address the developmental foundations that determine lifelong cognitive, emotional, and physical health outcomes.

Table 7 Children out of ECCE and Geographical Location

District/Subcounty	3 - 5 years	
	Not attending ECCE	Population
Kiteny	847	908
Muchwini East	539	712
Muchwini West	589	691
Mucwini	615	850
Namokora	416	469
Namokora North	549	624
Namokora Town Council	493	694
Omiya Anyima West	853	1,027
Omiya-Anyima	1,012	1,210
Orom	1,128	1,280
Orom East	990	1,023
Akwang	1,239	1,665
Kitgum Matidi	847	1,035
Kitgum Matidi Town Council	439	689
Labongo Amida West	613	803
Labongo Layamo	751	1,146
Labongo-Amida	454	743
Lagoro	726	915
Lalano	650	888
Kitgum Municipality	1,126	3,650
Kitgum	14,876	21,022

Source: NPHC, 2024

Data shows a significant gap in participation in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). Out of a total population of 21,022 children in this age group, 14,876 children are not attending ECCE, indicating that a large proportion of young children are missing early learning opportunities that are critical for cognitive and social development. The situation varies across sub-counties, with particularly high numbers of children not attending ECCE in areas such as Akwang (1,239), Orom (1,128), Kitgum Municipality (1,126), Omiya-Anyima (1,012), and Orom East (990). Although Kitgum Municipality has the largest population of children aged 3–5 years (3,650), a substantial number are still not enrolled in ECCE programs.

4.2 Primary and Secondary Education

Primary education represents the largest volume of service delivery in the education sector, and the DDP IV commits to substantial investments in school construction, rehabilitation, equipment, and teacher deployment. Strategic Intervention 1.3.1.1 targets the equipping of lagging public primary schools to meet Basic Requirements and Minimum Standards (BRMS).

Table 8: Children out of school by age and Geographical Location

District/Subcounty	6 years		6 - 12 years		13 - 17 years	
	Not started Primary	Population	Out of school	Population	Out of school	Population
Kiteny	170	249	873	1,644	632	1,186
Muchwini East	113	218	459	1,519	354	1,076
Muchwini West	130	222	468	1,555	351	1,114
Mucwini	108	264	478	1,765	372	1,217
Namokora	67	147	271	978	199	620
Namokora North	110	205	464	1,406	295	863
Namokora Town Council	136	222	518	1,438	412	1,001
Omiya Anyima West	191	356	920	2,301	645	1,523
Omiya-Anyima	214	378	1,078	2,544	810	1,754
Orom	286	384	1,466	2,672	833	1,666
Orom East	304	368	1,425	2,143	688	1,206
Akwang	276	562	927	3,679	833	2,645
Kitgum Matidi	171	291	986	2,100	666	1,455
Kitgum Matidi Town Council	93	220	324	1,461	320	1,091
Labongo Amida West	139	262	549	1,887	449	1,257
Labongo Layamo	161	342	471	2,622	499	1,963
Labongo-Amida	107	216	429	1,798	406	1,267
Lagoro	167	276	881	2,085	631	1,387
Lalano	142	316	397	1,965	361	1,310

Kitgum Municipality	540	1,144	1,273	8,282	1,497	6,744
Kitgum	3,625	6,642	14,657	45,844	11,253	32,345

Source: NPHC, 2024

The education data shows significant gaps in school participation across different age groups. Among children aged 6 years, out of a population of 6,642, about 3,625 have not started primary school indicating delays in school enrolment. For the 6–12 years age group, the district has 45,844 children of whom 14,657 are out of school, highlighting challenges in access to and retention in primary education. Similarly, among adolescents aged 13–17 years, out of a total population of 32,345, about 11,253 are out of school, suggesting difficulties in transition and continuation into secondary education. Sub-counties such as Akwang, Orom, Omiya-Anyima, and Kitgum Municipality record relatively higher numbers of children not attending school.

5. WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

5.1 Water Supply Access

Access to safe water is a fundamental determinant of population health, productivity, and quality of life. WASH outcomes through multiple indicators under its Human Capital Development programme including the percentage of rural and urban populations with access to safe water, the percentage of villages with at least one safe water source, and the percentage of the population with access to safely managed water.

Strategic interventions include the construction of climate-resilient piped water supply systems and point water facilities in rural areas, refugee and migrant communities, and public institutions. Rehabilitation and expansion of existing water supply systems is also targeted, with specific indicators for piped systems in rural, small town, and large town settings. An important innovation is the targeting of industrial parks with water supply systems to support private sector development.

5.2 Sanitation

Sanitation access remains a critical public health challenge in Kitgum District. The DDP IV targets a reduction in the percentage of the population practising open defecation and an increase in access to basic sanitation, including improved toilets not shared with other households. Strategic investments include construction of public sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas, construction of sanitation facilities in health facilities (with indicators for functional incinerators), and awareness creation campaigns on sanitation.

5.3 Hygiene Promotion

Hand hygiene is tracked through indicators measuring the percentage of populations with access to handwashing facilities (with soap) in rural areas, urban areas, and refugee settlements. Awareness campaigns and installation of handwashing facilities in public institutions and places are included as specific outputs, with distinct targets for rural, urban, and refugee contexts.

Table 9: Key hygiene indicators

WASH Dimension	Key Indicator (DDP IV)	Relevant Intervention
Safe Water – Rural	% of rural population with access to safe water	Climate-resilient piped water systems and point facilities
Safe Water – Urban	% of urban population with access to safe water	Upgrade and expand piped water in large towns
Open Defecation	% of population practising open defecation	Sanitation awareness campaigns; construction of public facilities

Basic Sanitation	% with access to improved toilet (not shared)	Sanitation infrastructure in institutions and refugee settlements
Hand Hygiene	% with access to handwashing facilities with soap	Installation of handwashing facilities; hygiene campaigns

Kitgum District continues to face notable challenges in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector. Although progress has been made in expanding access to safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene services remain a critical public health and development concern. The following situation analysis highlights the existing resources, gaps and priority areas for intervention in the district.

The district currently has a total of 1020 boreholes across the Lower Local Governments (LLGs) outside the municipality. However, only 673 boreholes are currently functional while the remaining facilities require rehabilitation or decommissioning. In addition, there are 15 solar-powered motorized water schemes serving the rapidly growing urban centres. Overall, access to safe water in the district is estimated at 93 percent.

Despite the relatively high level of safe water coverage, disparities persist across the district. 64 villages in the District still lack access to safe water sources, particularly in Orom, Mucwini, and Omiya Anyima Sub-counties, which remain the most affected areas. Sanitation services also remain inadequate in some parts of the district.

Table 10: Status of Key WASH service delivery Standards and Indicators

District/Sub County	Water source		Sanitation			
	Unimproved	Improved	Improved sanitation	Unimproved sanitation	Open defecation	Total Households
Kiteny	420	1,347	402	629	736	1,767
Muchwini East	466	1,073	326	806	407	1,539
Muchwini West	61	1,550	557	903	151	1,611
Mucwini	115	1,683	615	775	408	1,798
Namokora	79	823	381	406	115	902
Namokora North	291	1,079	178	619	573	1,370
Namokora Town Council	104	1,396	462	820	218	1,500
Omiya Anyima West	60	2,327	491	1,456	440	2,387

Omiya-Anyima	52	2,610	624	1,566	472	2,662
Orom	745	1,726	504	885	1,082	2,471
Orom East	465	1,709	71	576	1,527	2,174
Akwang	239	3,492	1,139	1,931	661	3,731
Kitgum Matidi	34	2,157	593	1,282	316	2,191
Kitgum Matidi Town Council	5	1,520	449	927	149	1,525
Labongo Amida West	130	1,992	461	1,216	445	2,122
Labongo Layamo	48	2,621	923	1,249	497	2,669
Labongo-Amida	54	1,976	912	1,001	117	2,030
Lagoro	13	2,090	593	1,256	254	2,103
Lalano	90	1,773	268	1,216	379	1,863
Kitgum Municipality	53	11,349	8,798	2,446	158	11,402
Kitgum	3,524	46,293	18,747	21,965	9,105	49,817

Source: NPHC, 2024

The distribution of households by water source and sanitation status in Kitgum District shows that out of 49,817 households, the majority (46,293 households) access improved water sources while 3,524 households still rely on unimproved sources indicating generally high water coverage but with notable disparities across sub-counties such as Orom, Orom East, Mucwini East, and Kiteny where reliance on unimproved sources remains relatively high. However, sanitation conditions remain a significant challenge in the district with only 18,747 households having improved sanitation facilities compared to 21,965 households using unimproved sanitation, and 9,105 households still practicing open defecation, particularly in areas like Orom East, Orom, and Kiteny. In contrast, urban areas such as Kitgum Municipality show better sanitation outcomes with a higher number of households accessing improved sanitation and lower levels of open defecation, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to improve sanitation coverage and hygiene practices, especially in rural sub-counties.

6. EMPLOYMENT, LIVELIHOODS, AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

6.1 Labour Market and Employment

Kitgum District's labour market is characterised by a predominantly agricultural workforce, limited formal employment, high youth unemployment, and significant dependence on subsistence livelihoods. The DDP IV Programme Objective 4 under Human Capital Development aims to promote decent work and productive employment, tracking indicators including the number of jobs created in formal and informal sectors, the proportion of workers reporting occupational injuries, and the percentage of youth neither in employment nor in education (NEET rate).

Key interventions include establishing a functional labour market, strengthening compliance with labour laws and standards, promoting industrial harmony, improving occupational safety and health management, and enhancing the labour market inclusion of vulnerable and special groups including migrants, returnees, refugees, persons with disabilities, and women. A functional Labour Market Information System (LMIS) that includes refugee data is targeted as a specific output.

Table 11 Unemployment Rate by Age groups and Geographical location

District/MC/Sub County	Persons aged 14 - 64		Persons aged 15+	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Kiteny	73	31.5	74	31.2
Muchwini East	44	5.9	42	5.5
Muchwini West	151	10	148	9.4
Mucwini	96	8.1	97	7.8
Namokora	34	4	34	3.9
Namokora North	149	32.5	150	32.2
Namokora Town Council	265	33.8	268	33.6
Omiya Anyima West	284	18.5	287	18.2
Omiya-Anyima	294	15	297	14.8
Orom	350	16.7	348	16.8
Orom East	41	2.8	39	2.6
Akwang	440	20	447	19.9
Kitgum Matidi	238	18.7	241	18.6
Kitgum Matidi TC	186	22.2	187	22.4
Labongo Amida West	331	26.1	329	25.7
Labongo Layamo	356	19.5	354	19
Labongo-Amida	380	20.2	381	19.7
Lagoro	73	4.2	73	4.1
Lalano	143	35.8	143	35.5
Kitgum Municipality	1,436	13	1,437	12.8
Kitgum	5,364	15.2	5,376	15

Source: NPHC, 2024

Overall, the district recorded 5,364 unemployed persons aged 14–64 years (15.2%) and 5,376 unemployed persons aged 15 years and above (15%) according to the NPHC, 2024. Some sub-counties show relatively higher unemployment rates, notably Lalano (35.8%), Namokora Town Council (33.8%), Namokora North (32.5%), and Kiteny (31.5%). Moderate levels of unemployment are observed in Akwang, Labongo-Amida, Labongo Layamo and Kitgum Matidi while lower rates are recorded in sub-counties such as Orom East, Namokora, and Lagoro. Kitgum Municipality has a comparatively moderate unemployment rate of about 13 percent, reflecting relatively better access to employment opportunities compared to some rural areas.

Table 12: Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training by Age groups and Geographical location

District/MC/Subcounty	Persons aged 18 - 30 Number	Percentage	Number Persons aged 15- 24	Percentage
Kiteny	1,729	88.9	1,478	75.8
Muchwini East	1,237	71.2	950	55.2
Muchwini West	976	57.1	756	42.7
Mucwini	1,371	65.2	998	49.1
Namokora	542	52.2	452	44.2
Namokora North	1,239	83.4	943	65.1
Namokora Town Council	1,306	74.9	1,068	62
Omiya Anyima West	1,966	72.4	1,585	59.4
Omiya-Anyima	1,994	66.1	1,639	55.9
Orom	1,783	65.7	1,400	53.6
Orom East	1,418	63.1	1,167	57.3
Akwang	3,095	70.8	2,418	54.4
Kitgum Matidi	1,845	74.8	1,474	60.1
Kitgum Matidi Town Council	1,277	70.8	945	51.9
Labongo Amida West	1,643	68.5	1,193	54.3
Labongo Layamo	2,025	65.8	1,571	49.3
Labongo-Amida	1,275	60.3	922	44.9
Lagoro	1,500	61.5	1,173	49.8
Lalano	1,885	81.7	1,370	60.8
Kitgum Municipality	7,017	50.1	4,864	39.1
Kitgum	37,123	64.6	28,366	51.5

Source: NPHC, 2024

According to the NPHC, 2024, the district recorded 37,123 (64.6%) youths aged 18-30 years Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and 28,366 (51.5%) youths aged 15-24 Not in Employment, Education or Training. Higher rates of youths Not in Employment, Education or

Training are observed in sub-counties such as Lalano (81.7%), Namokora Town Council (74.9%), Namokora North (83.4%), and Kiteny (88.9%) suggesting relatively limited employment opportunities in these areas. Moderate unemployment levels are recorded in Akwang, Labongo-Amida, Labongo Layamo, Kitgum Matidi, and Omiya-Anyima, while lower levels are noted in Orom East, Namokora, and Lagoro. Kitgum Municipality registers a lowest rate of youths Not in Employment, Education or Training of about 50 percent.

Household in Subsistence economy and benefited from PDM

Table 13: Household in Subsistence economy and those that benefited from PDM by Geographical Location

District/MC/Sub County	Households in subsistence Economy	Households that benefited from PDM	Total Households
Kiteny	1,537	236	1,767
Muchwini East	1,128	221	1,539
Muchwini West	897	217	1,611
Mucwini	1,098	207	1,798
Namokora	471	232	902
Namokora North	1,095	305	1,370
Namokora Town Council	1,008	312	1,500
Omiya Anyima West	1,669	298	2,387
Omiya-Anyima	1,689	254	2,662
Orom	1,751	414	2,471
Orom East	1,596	243	2,174
Akwang	2,558	323	3,731
Kitgum Matidi	1,380	210	2,191
Kitgum Matidi Town Council	1,115	391	1,525
Labongo Amida West	1,345	216	2,122
Labongo Layamo	1,574	306	2,669
Labongo-Amida	815	201	2,030
Lagoro	1,263	473	2,103
Lalano	1,506	328	1,863
Kitgum Municipality	1,805	726	11,402
Kitgum	27,300	6,113	49,817

Source: NPHC, 2024

6.2 Agricultural Livelihoods

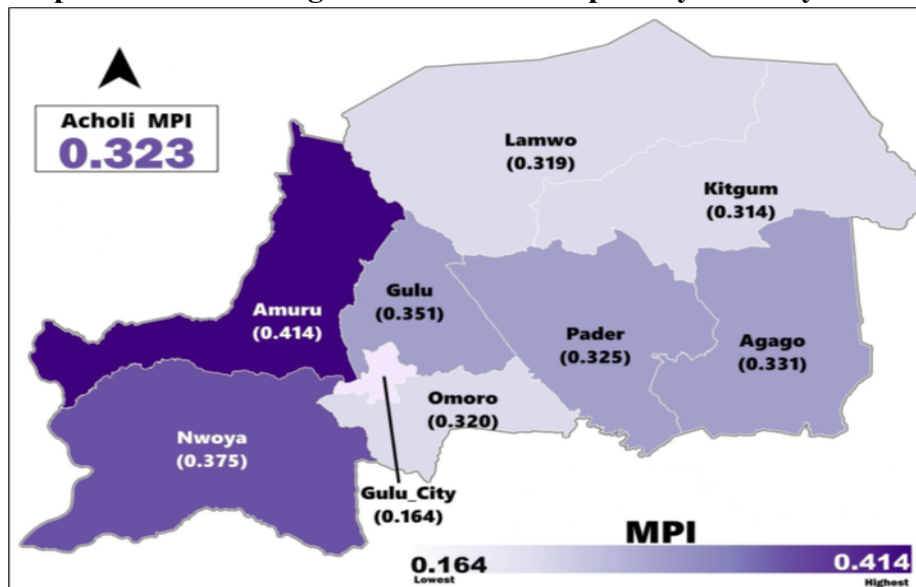
Agriculture remains the dominant livelihood for the majority of households in Kitgum District with about 55% of the households in subsistence economy. The district plans extensive strategic

interventions to sustainably increase production and productivity, improve post-harvest handling, develop value addition infrastructure, and increase market access for agricultural products. Key population-relevant targets include the percentage of households dependent on subsistence agriculture as the main livelihood source and the proportion of farming households accessing agricultural extension services.

6.4 Multi-dimensional Poverty Index

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a measure of poverty that captures simultaneous deprivations experienced by individuals across multiple dimensions of life. It provides a more holistic view of poverty than traditional income-based measures. Deprivation in health, education, living standards, basic services, among others.

Map of Acholi showing multi-dimensional poverty index by district



According to data, Kitgum has a Multi-dimensional Poverty Index of 0.314, which is slightly below the Acholi regional average of 0.323. This places Kitgum among the moderately poor districts in the sub-region, indicating that while poverty is still widespread, its intensity is somewhat lower

compared to the most deprived areas such as Amuru and Nwoya.

The MPI value of 0.314 suggests that a considerable proportion of households in Kitgum experience overlapping deprivations in key dimensions (education, health, and living standards). However, the district performs marginally better than several of its neighbours, including Agago District (0.331) and Pader District (0.325), indicating relatively improved conditions in certain indicators.

Despite this moderate position, poverty in Kitgum remains significant. Likely contributing factors include:

- Limited access to quality healthcare services, especially in rural areas
- Education challenges, such as school dropout rates and limited secondary school access
- Inadequate infrastructure, including poor road networks and limited access to clean water and sanitation
- Dependence on subsistence agriculture, which is vulnerable to climate variability and low productivity

7.0 POPULATION VULNERABILITIES AND SPECIAL GROUPS

7.1 Children and Youth

Children and youth constitute the largest population segment in Kitgum District and face multiple intersecting vulnerabilities. The district through the DDP IV addresses child vulnerability through integrated approaches spanning early childhood development, education quality and retention, child protection, nutrition, immunisation and family strengthening.

7.2 Women and Girls

Women and girls in Kitgum District face multiple forms of disadvantage including limited access to education and economic opportunities, high rates of gender-based violence, early marriage, teenage pregnancy and limited representation in decision-making structures. Through the DDP IV, the district addresses these challenges through gender-responsive budgeting requirements, targeted livelihood programmes for women, reproductive health services, adolescent-friendly health services, and protection from sexual and gender-based violence.

7.3 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

PWDs are explicitly recognised as a priority group across number of programmes in the NDP IV. Specific district interventions include provision of rehabilitative and assistive devices, disability-friendly health services (including functional delivery beds for PWDs in hospitals), inclusion in livelihood and empowerment programmes and protection from discrimination in employment. The plan also targets training for LG staff and sensitisation on provisions for PWDs and older persons.

7.4 Older Persons

The older population segment (3.8%), while smaller in relative terms faces specific vulnerabilities including income insecurity, health decline, limited mobility and social isolation. One of the DDP IV interventions includes the Senior Citizens Grant as a direct income support mechanism for eligible older persons, including displaced persons and refugees.

7.5 Refugee and Host Communities

Kitgum District is located in a region that receives refugee populations mainly from South Sudan. The DDP IV's Governance and Security programme and Regional Development programme include specific provisions for refugee response, covering education access, health services, water provision, environmental management, livelihood support, and integration of refugees into District Development Plans (DDPs). The plan tracks the percentage of the refugee population with sustained access to integrated services and the percentage increase in the host population accessing integrated services.

8.0 ENERGY ACCESS AND LIGHTING

Access to modern energy services (grid electricity or solar) is extremely limited in Kitgum District, particularly outside the municipality. Three-quarters of all households (76.0%) have no access to grid electricity or solar power — relying instead on kerosene lamps, firewood, or other traditional sources — with severe implications for health, productivity, and safety.

Table 14: Household using solar or electricity for lighting and Geographical Location

District/ MC/Subcounty	HHs using grid electricity for Lighting	HHs using solar for Lighting	HHs using solar or grid electricity for Lighting	Total Households
Kiteny	1	82	83	1,767
Muchwini East	8	154	162	1,539
Muchwini West	9	143	152	1,611
Mucwini	19	218	237	1,798
Namokora	1	81	82	902
Namokora North	2	131	133	1,370
Namokora Town Council	47	224	271	1,500
Omiya Anyima West	3	252	255	2,387
Omiya-Anyima	15	340	355	2,662
Orom	10	84	94	2,471
Orom East	1	23	24	2,174
Akwang	41	505	546	3,731
Kitgum Matidi	4	191	195	2,191
Kitgum Matidi Town Council	18	290	308	1,525
Labongo Amida West	14	278	292	2,122
Labongo Layamo	14	451	465	2,669
Labongo-Amida	21	548	569	2,030
Lagoro	14	190	204	2,103
Lalano	0	335	335	1,863
Kitgum Municipality	3,987	3,228	7,215	11,402
Kitgum	4,229	7,748	11,977	49,817

Source: NPHC, 2024

The data on household access to electricity for lighting in Kitgum District reveals important insights into energy use patterns, levels of access, and disparities across sub counties. Overall, out of 49,817 households, 11,977 households (about 24%) have access to either grid electricity or solar power for lighting. This indicates that the majority of households (approximately 76%) still rely on non-electric sources, such as kerosene, firewood, or other traditional lighting methods—highlighting a significant energy access gap in the district.

A key feature of the data is the dominance of solar energy over grid electricity. Of the households with access to electricity: 7,748 households use solar power, accounting for about 65% of electrified households and only 4,229 households use grid electricity, representing about 35%. This clearly shows that solar energy is the primary source of modern lighting in Kitgum, especially in rural areas where grid infrastructure is limited or absent.

There is a strong variation in electricity access across sub counties as Kitgum Municipality stands out with the highest access levels. It accounts for 7,215 households using electricity (grid or solar), which is more than half of all electrified households in the district. Notably, it has 3,987 households connected to the grid, reflecting better infrastructure and urban advantages. Other relatively better-performing areas include Labongo-Amida (569 households), Akwang (546 households) and Labongo Layamo (465 households). These areas show a growing uptake of solar energy, suggesting gradual improvement in rural electrification. In contrast, several sub counties have very low access levels, particularly; Orom East (24 households), Kiteny (83 households) and Namokora (82 households)

These areas reflect severe energy deprivation, with very limited access to both grid and solar electricity.

In nearly all rural sub counties, solar usage far exceeds grid connections. For example; Omiya-Anyima (340 solar vs 15 grid), Labongo-Amida (548 solar vs 21 grid) and Akwang (505 solar vs 41 grid). This pattern underscores the role of solar as a critical off-grid solution, helping bridge the energy gap in hard-to-reach and underserved communities.

The findings highlight several important issues:

- Low overall electrification limits socio-economic development, affecting education, health services, and productivity
- Urban–rural inequality is evident, with Kitgum Municipality far ahead of other areas
- Reliance on solar energy reflects both an opportunity (renewable energy expansion) and a constraint (limited grid reach)

9.0. KEY FINDINGS, GAPS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Key Findings

Based on the analysis of population dynamics and their intersection with the DDP IV strategic framework, the following key findings are highlighted:

Demographic Pressure on Services

Kitgum District's youthful and growing population creates sustained and escalating demand for education, health, water, employment, and social protection services. The DDP IV's investment in service expansion is necessary but must be matched by improvements in service quality and efficiency to achieve meaningful development outcomes.

Maternal and Child Health Vulnerabilities

Maternal mortality, neonatal mortality, childhood malnutrition, and incomplete immunisation coverage remain critical challenges. Health system functionality — particularly the availability of skilled health workers, essential medicines, and emergency obstetric care — is the binding constraint on population health outcomes.

Education Quality and Equity Gaps

While the DDP IV invests substantially in school infrastructure, teacher deployment, and quality assurance, significant gaps persist in early learning outcomes (literacy and numeracy), special needs education, and completion rates. The dropout tracking system and foundational learning improvement lab represent promising innovations that require sustained implementation.

WASH Coverage Deficits

A significant proportion of the rural population lacks access to safely managed water and basic sanitation. The persistence of open defecation practices in rural areas poses direct public health risks, particularly for children. Climate resilience of water infrastructure is an underappreciated but growing concern.

Youth Unemployment and NEET Rates

The large youth cohort faces a constrained labour market, with limited formal employment opportunities, a skills mismatch between educational outputs and market needs, and inadequate vocational and entrepreneurship pathways. High NEET rates represent both a wasted demographic opportunity and a source of social tension.

9.2 Recommendations

Accelerate Health System Functionality

Prioritise the recruitment and deployment of health workers, especially midwives, clinical officers, and community health extension workers. Ensure sustained availability of essential medicines and

commodities. Upgrade all lower-level health facilities to meet minimum functional standards for maternal and child health services.

Scale Up Early Childhood Development

Invest in integrated ECD centres that combine nutrition, health, early stimulation, and protection services. Train and support caregivers and families in responsive parenting and child development practices. These investments yield the highest long-term returns in human capital and are foundational to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty.

Strengthen Civil Registration at Community Level

Deploy dedicated civil registration staff at sub-county level, digitise registration processes, and establish clear linkages between health facility birth notifications and NIRA registration. Conduct periodic data quality audits to improve coverage and accuracy. Use the national population data bank to generate disaggregated demographic data for planning purposes.

Develop a Youth Employment Strategy

Develop a dedicated Youth Employment Strategy that aligns skills training (vocational, technical, and entrepreneurship) with the district's growth sectors (agriculture, tourism, agro-processing, and ICT). Expand the Labour-Intensive Public Works Programme as a short-term employment buffer while long-term structural interventions take effect.

Expand Social Protection Coverage

Scale up direct income support programmes for the most vulnerable, particularly older persons, severe child disability cases, and nutrition-vulnerable households. Develop a comprehensive social registry to identify, verify, and track beneficiaries. Explore community-based social protection mechanisms to extend coverage beyond government grants.

Integrate Population issues in Annual Planning

Ensure that annual work plans and budgets explicitly account for demographic trends, including age-specific demand projections, spatial population distribution, and equity considerations for underserved groups. Conduct an annual State of Population Report and use it as a key input to the Budget Framework Paper.

Diversify the Revenue Base

Implement the District Revenue Ordinance to provide legal enforcement for local revenue collection. Develop new revenue streams through Public-Private Partnerships, tourism promotion, agro-processing levies, and digital revenue automation. Actively lobby through ULGA for increased discretionary funding from the Central Government.

Strengthen Gender and Inclusion Mainstreaming

Implement gender audits of all departmental plans and budgets. Ensure that programmes addressing teenage pregnancy, GBV, and women's economic empowerment are fully funded and monitored. Develop specific indicators to track outcomes for PWDs, older persons, indigenous ethnic minorities, and refugees.

10 CONCLUSION

Kitgum District stands at a critical juncture in its development trajectory. The DDP IV provides a comprehensive and ambitious framework for addressing the district's population challenges, grounded in Uganda's national development priorities and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The plan's recognition of population dynamics as a cross-cutting driver of development demand is commendable, and its commitment to civil registration, population data strengthening, and integration of demographic dividend considerations in planning represents a significant step forward.

However, translating this framework into tangible improvements in population wellbeing will require sustained political will, adequate and timely financing, strong institutional capacity at all levels, and genuine community participation. The demographic characteristics of the district — a youthful, rapidly growing, predominantly rural population with significant post-conflict vulnerabilities — mean that the margin for error is narrow and the cost of inaction is high.

The recommendations presented in this report are intended to sharpen the focus of DDP IV implementation on population-critical areas and to strengthen the evidence base for resource allocation decisions. Kitgum's future prosperity depends on the degree to which its human capital — its children, youth, women, and working-age adults — can develop, thrive, and contribute to the district's social and economic transformation.

This Population Situation Analysis Report should be reviewed annually alongside the DDP IV performance reports, updated as new population data become available, and used as a living document to inform advocacy, resource mobilisation, and programme adjustments throughout the plan period.

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